GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH







Newsletter Issue #21 8th February, 2024





Message from the Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Term 2 Fees

As educators, we really hate having to discuss pending fees with our dear parents. However, the reality is that fee income is our only source of finance, & critical in ensuring

payment of staff salaries & bills for the smooth operation of school. Many thanks to all the parents who have cleared their T2 fees in a timely manner. However, unfortunately there are around 400 students still to clear their fees. This is a really critical situation for us, so please clear pending fees as applicable, so we can operate school & open the re-enrollment facility for September 2024 seats. Thank you.



pates for Your Diary

Date Details		
Date	Details	
Mon. 15/4/24 Thurs 2nd May	 Deadline to book seats online for September is Monday April 15th. Deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee is Thurs. 2nd May. Regardless of any system-generated email, the re-enrollment fee is non-refundable for any reason, as per the Sharjah Authority Circular. Please note that any un-booked/unpaid seats would be given to the Waiting List. 	
Wed. 14/2/24 & Thurs. 15/2/24	 School closed for Mid-Term 2 Break (2 days) Admin offices open (timings TBC) 	
Monday 11th March	 Possible start of Ramadan . Ramadan timings for whole school 8m-1pm (TBC) 	
Friday 29/3/24 to Sunday 14/4/24	 School closed for Spring Break (2 weeks) Online fee payments recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open in school on Saturday 13/4/24, 8am-1pm for convenient fee payment Term 3 fees due by latest Monday 15th April. Thank you. 	
Mon. 3/6/24 to Thurs. 13/6/23	 T3 Final, compulsory promotional Exams. School timings for all students will be 7:30am- 12:30pm. These dates are subject to SPEA approval & change. 	



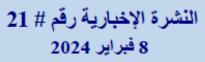






مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة









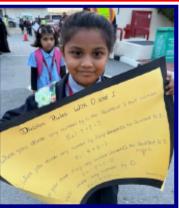


المواعيد

,		
التقاحسيل		التاريخ
آخر موعد لحجز المقاعد الكترونيّا ودفع رسوم إعادة القيد لضمان المقاعد لشهر سبتمبر. بغض النظر عن أي بريد الكتروني يصدره النظام، فإن رسوم إعادة التسجيل غير قابلة للاسترداد لأي سبب من الأسباب، وفقًا لتعيم هيئة الشارقة.	•	لاشين. 15/4/24
بعد الموعد النهائي المحدد، سيتم تحويل أي مقاعد غير محجوزة/غير مدفوعة الأجر إلى قائمة الانتظار	•	
المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة منتصف الفصل الدراسي الثاني (يومين)	•	الأربعاء.
المكاتب الإدارية مفتوحة (المواعيد سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا)	•	14/2/24 ق لخميس. 15/2/24
احتمال بداية شهر رمضان . مواعيد رمضان للمدرسة بأكملها من 8 صباحًا إلى 1 ظهرًا (سيتم تحديدها لاحقًا)	:	لاثنين 11 مارس
المدرسة مغلقة لحللة الربيع (أسبوعين).	٠	ن الجمعة
يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع		29/3/24 إلى لأحد 14/4/24

ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحًا في المدرسة يوم السبت 13/4/24، من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 1 ظهرًا لدفع الرسوم رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثالث مستحقة بحلول يوم الاثنين 15 أبريل. شكرًا لك. T3 الاختبارات الترويجية النهائية الإجبارية. ستكون مواعيد الاثنين. 6/3/24 لى الحَم الدراسة لجميع الطلاب من الساعة 7:30 صباحًا حتى 12:30 13/6/23







رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس النتفيذي السيدة فاليري تومبسون

رسوم القصل الدراسى الثانى

لذا يرجى الغاء الرسوم المعلقة حسب الاقتضاء، حتى نتمكن من تشغيل المدرسة وفتح مرفق إعادة التسجيل لمقاعد سبتمبر 2024. شكرًا لك.







رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

The most important gifts you can give your child are a quality education and the values that will guide them through life

Sunny Varkey



Find our updated Parent Handbook through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



Whole School News

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Whole School News; GEMS 'Family First' Initiative!



We are delighted to announce the launch of an exciting new initiative, Family First.

For the past 65 years, GEMS Education has put 'Family First' at the heart of its teaching and will now incorporate this core principle into its holistic classroom learning for students across the network in a ground-breaking new programme.

The initiative actively seeks to strengthen family bonds, foster intergenerational learning, and combat issues such as loneliness, isolation, and depression. Family First will play a pivotal role in students' wellbeing and success as they reap the benefits of deeper connections and an engaged and supportive community.

Fully supported by our Founder, Mr Sunny Varkey, and in alignment with the Dubai Social Agenda 33, Family First launches publicly today (Thursday 8 February) at an event held at GEMS World Academy – Dubai.

We are honoured by the presence of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Co-Existence and Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid, Director-General of the Dubai Community Development Authority.

They and other VIP guests, including GEMS Education Founder, Mr. Sunny Varkey, will be joined by a selected audience of some 500 GEMS family members including students, parents, and grandparents, along with Family First Champions from each school in the UAE and Qatar who have been appointed to spearhead individual school activities.

Family First will initially be launched regionally across the GEMS Education network of schools, but the ambition is for Family First to become a much larger force in the years to come – a household name representing a cultural shift towards love, care, and interconnectedness, influencing global policies and practices.

As part of this initiative, GEMS Education will be conducting a global survey to understand family and community dynamics, organising a series of talks covering inspiring stories from across diverse landscapes, and hosting the *Family First* Gala, which will be an annual event celebrating remarkable stories and people.

The launch event will be covered on GEMS Education's social media, and we ask you to support this movement of love and care by simply liking, sharing and commenting on the posts from GEMS Education's Instagram, using the hashtag #GEMSFamilyFirst.

Family First aims to impact every member of the GEMS family and you can stay up to date with the initiative by visiting the Family First section on the GEMS Education website.

Whole School News; GEMS 'Family First' Initiative!





Whole School News; WSS 10th Inter-School Quran, Hadith & Invocation Competition, 5/2/24



We are delighted to announce that the Islamic Department of Westminster School Sharjah (WSS) hosted the illustrious 10th Inter-school Quran, Hadith, and Invocation "competition on Monday, 5th February 2024. This year's theme, "Lights of the Crown encapsulated the essence of enlightenment and spiritual illumination, (تيجان النور).







In the radiant ambiance of the 10th Inter-school Quran, Hadith, and Invocation competition, the opening speech and closing speech delivered by the esteemed Vice Principal and principal Ms. Valerie Thompson, accompanied by our gracious hosts Sameer and Fida, was a beacon of inspiration and unity. With eloquence and passion, the Vice Principal set the tone for the event, emphasizing the significance of the theme, "Lights of the Crown" (تيجان النور), and its relevance in guiding our journey towards enlightenment.

Whole School News; WSS 10th Inter-School Quran, Hadith & Invocation Competition, 5/2/24



In the heart of the 10th Inter-school Quran, Hadith, and Invocation competition, the judges undertook a pivotal role, tasked with the challenging yet rewarding responsibility of discerning excellence amidst a sea of talent. These distinguished individuals, revered for their expertise in Quranic studies, Hadith, and spiritual guidance, brought to the table a wealth of knowledge and discernment honed through years of dedicated study and practice. With meticulous attention to detail, the judges meticulously evaluated each participant's recitation, weighing factors such as: the emotional connection to the recitation, the fluency and the tajweed.





Whole School News; WSS 10th Inter-School Quran, Hadith & Invocation Competition, 5/2/24

















Whole School News; WSS 10th Inter-School Quran, Hadith & Invocation Competition, 5/2/24—WSS Winners!









Congratulations to:

- Quran Category Ahmed Mahmoud (3rd Place)
- Quran Category Lena Khalid (1st Place)
- Quran Category Anas Rashad (1st Place)
- Hadith Category Joudi Ahmed (1st Place)
- Invocation Competition
 Mohammad Hassan (3rd Place)



Whole School News; WSS Extended LAB Meeting, 6/2/24!





Our Local Advisory Body (LAB) met as an extended team with parents & student leaders on 6/2/24. The Agenda included a Safeguarding refresh, a review of progress made on Term one actions as identified at the previous meeting, & an in-depth discussion to identify the WSS Learner Profile characteristics to align our Vision & educational programme. It was a very fruitful meeting. Many thanks to our valued LAB members, parents & student leaders.



WSS Superstar Champions!



Participating Teachers in the OOB GEMS Teachers' Debating Competition. Well done, ladies! Ms. Vandana said, "It was a really an enriching, enlightening and value adding experience to attend the 3rd Madam Mariamma Varkey Teacher's Debate competition on 3rd February, 2024 at Our Own English High school- Boy's branch, Sharjah, for all three of us -Ms. Subha, myself as participants and Ms. Anila as our coordinator..."

The Sharjah Principals' Council (SPC) met on 5/2/24 (WSS Principal Ms. Valerie is the Executive Committee Secretary). Agenda items included engagement of all Sharjah Principals & transparency through sharing Agenda items & Meeting Minutes, having a school development focus to Agenda items, supportive engagement with SPEA, & practical items such as school Reviews & calendar dates for the coming academic year.



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

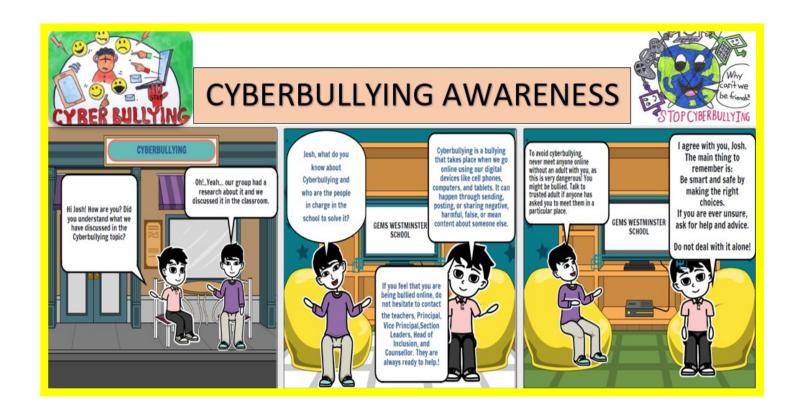


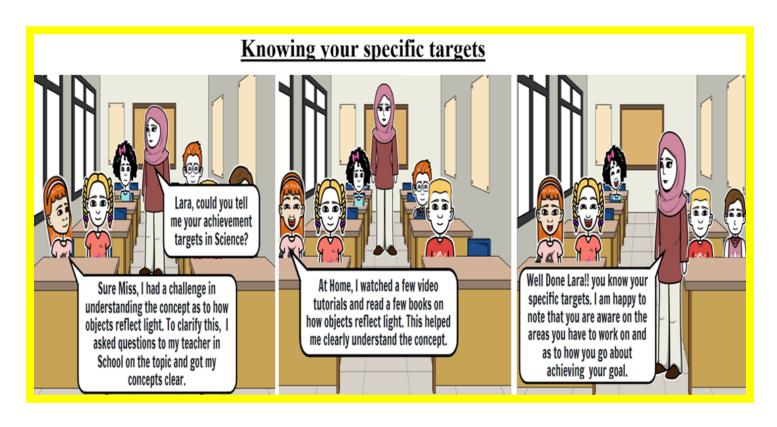






Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



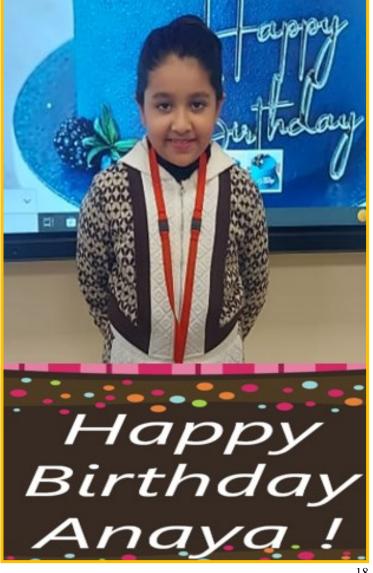














WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!









Dear Teachers,

Just wanted to share a quick email to say a massive thanks for organizing today's lunch. It was fantastic! Seeing kids enjoying with there daddy's over a delicious meal really made our day. Your effort doesn't go unnoticed, and we're super grateful for all you do. Keep being awesome!

Regards

Hariom Gupta

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!







WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Congratulations to superstar gymnast Ayla Moaz (FS2S2) for achieving a trophy for her gymnastics skills! Well done!





Junior Section News; Lunch with Super Daddy, 5/2/24!









Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS1H, 8/2/24!











FS1H presented their first ever Assembly on the theme, 'Superheroes'. We learnt how Mummy & Daddy are our everyday heroes! It was Amazing!! The students had learnt their lines, used 'WOW!' words & spoke confidently in front of the audience. Well done!





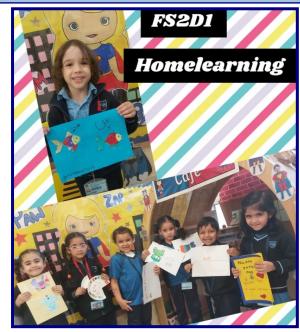






Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!













Junior Section News; FS2D2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1D2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1S1 Learning Activities!













Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

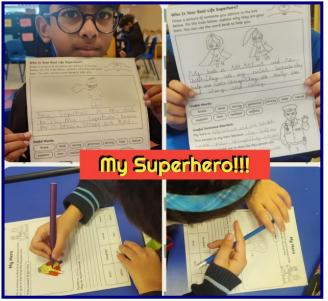
Y2D1 Class activity Picture

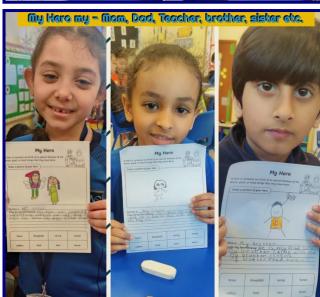
TR: Jinitra Rajesh TA: Asma Mohamed





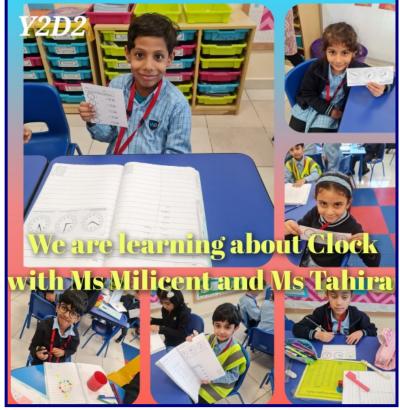
Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!











Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!





Huge Thank You to all the superdads who joined us the week for Super Daddy Day Our children LOVED it:



Y2F2-Class Activities









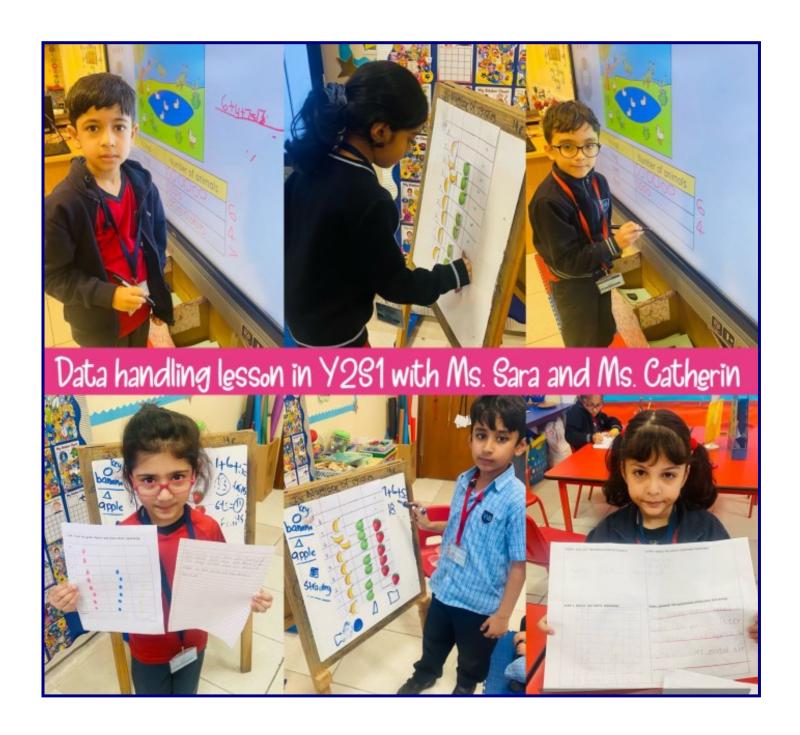
Teacher: Ms. Fauzia

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Benil

Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News

















Thank you Kinda (Y1F1) for your cute video!

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

For today, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the entire team that put together the Primary Reading Workshop for Parents, January 31st, 2024. It was an awakening to prod our children everyday towards reading - an art and skill that we see slowly diminishing. We better understand that this is a family and group activity and can be a lot of fun. We hope to carry the light you have lit further. Once again, a big shout out to all the teachers for your grand efforts despite having really busy schedules.

It is wonderful to see that you share our parenting responsibilities with so much enthusiasm and look to nurture our children beyond academics.

Thank you and God Bless!

Best regards,

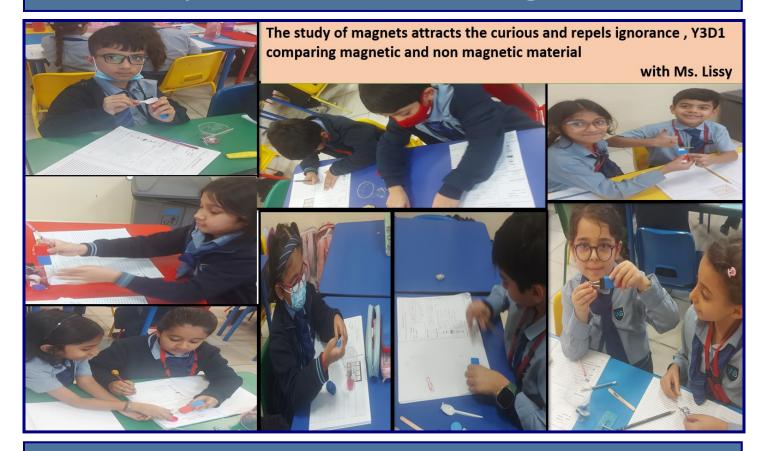
Sarah

(p/o Zahra Sakerwala - Y6GS





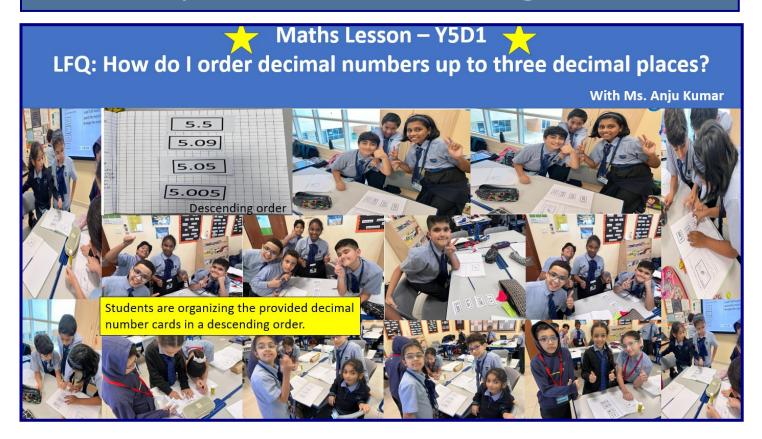
Primary Section News; Y3D1 Learning Activities!



Primary Section News; Y4H2 Learning Activities!



Primary Section News; Y5D1 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y5D1 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y5D1 Learning Activities!



The students' creation of a pyramid slingshot using their own materials brought a dynamic and engaging element to the lesson. Their enthusiasm and joy were evident as they actively participated in the activity, making it a truly enjoyable and enriching experience for all involved.

















WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

Appreciation for the Success of WSS MUN

Appreciation to all the students who contributed to the success of the recent Model United Nations event. Their dedication, preparation, and engagement were instrumental in making the MUN a resounding success.

















The enthusiasm for diplomacy and global affairs truly shone through, and we are immensely proud of your achievements. Thank you for representing our school with excellence and demonstrating outstanding leadership skills.

















WSS Secondary Section KS4 Superstar Champions!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



BOOK DONATION BY

FATHIMA SHAIMA MOHAMED

Y11GS



Congratulations to Badminton superstar who took second prize in a Badminton's singles competition at Al Mash Badminton Sports, Sharjah.



Dear Ms valarie

Good morning

I would really appreciate the efforts done by Ms Sarita, Ms Sawati, Ms Geethu and Ms Sreeja.

For their cooperation and continous efforts and support not only for my son but also for me as single mother trying to do my best for my 3 kids in your respectful school I believe that as we take from our time to address complaints and observations, we should take more from our time to address appreciation and gratitude. Would like to thank tou for your successful management and leadership.

Many thanks

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!





"SHINING BRIGHT: STAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT": Y10 AND 11 STARS STUDENTS OF JANUARY

Dear Ms valarie

Good morning

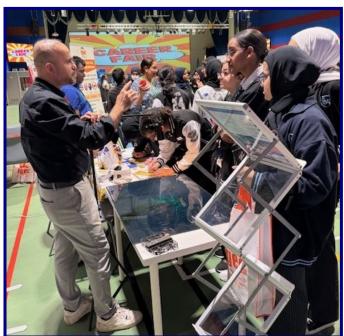
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Secondary Section News; WSS Careers Fair, 6/2/24!









Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y7!

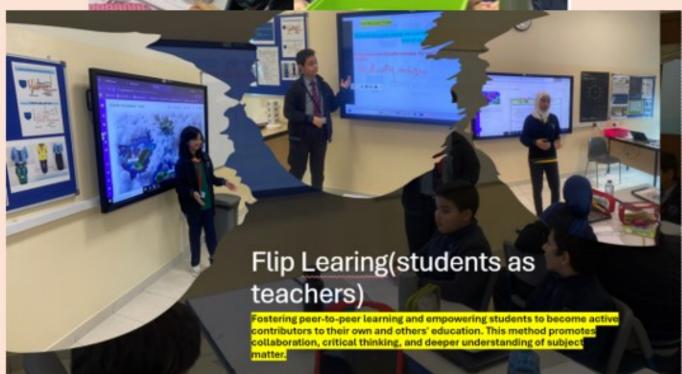


Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y7!

Newsletter Poster Year 7



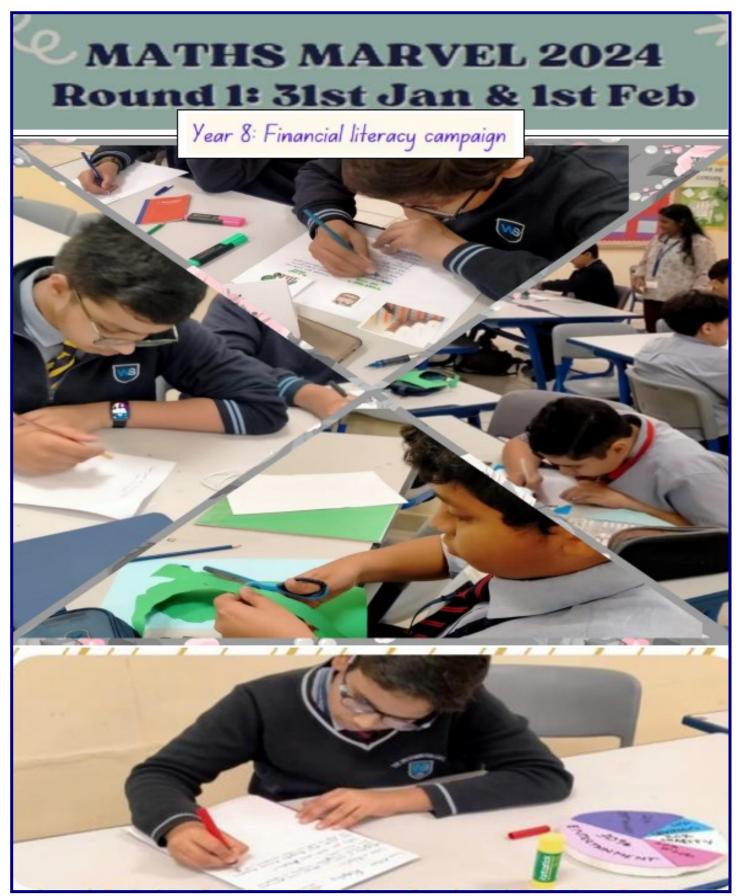
Students experiencing different styles of learning. Benefiting from digital resources to practical in the labs.



MATHS MARVEL 2024 Round 1: 31st Jan & 1st Feb



Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y8!

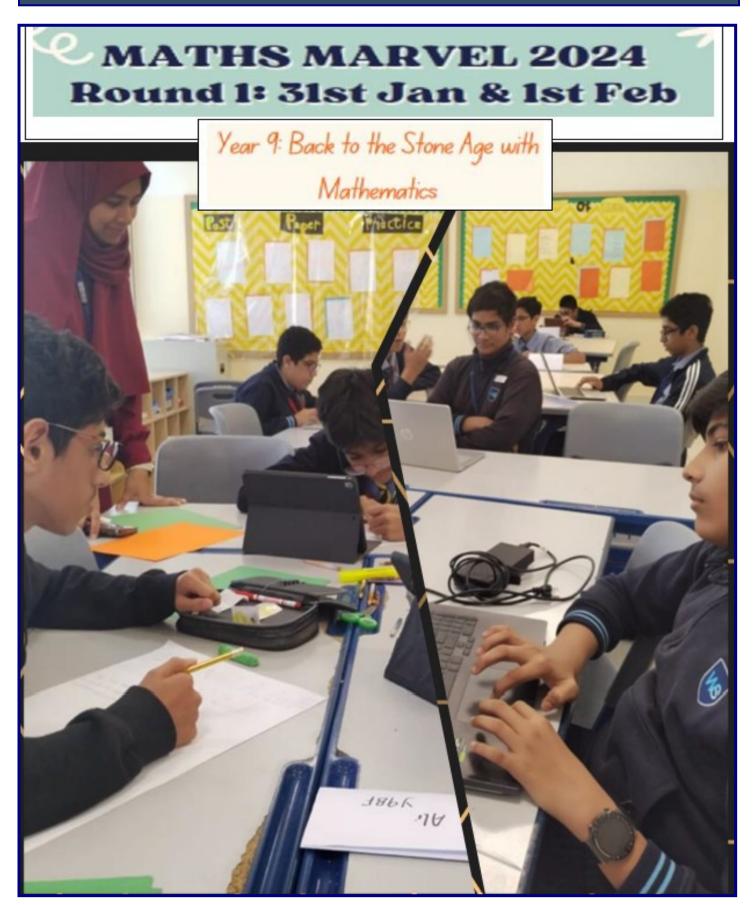


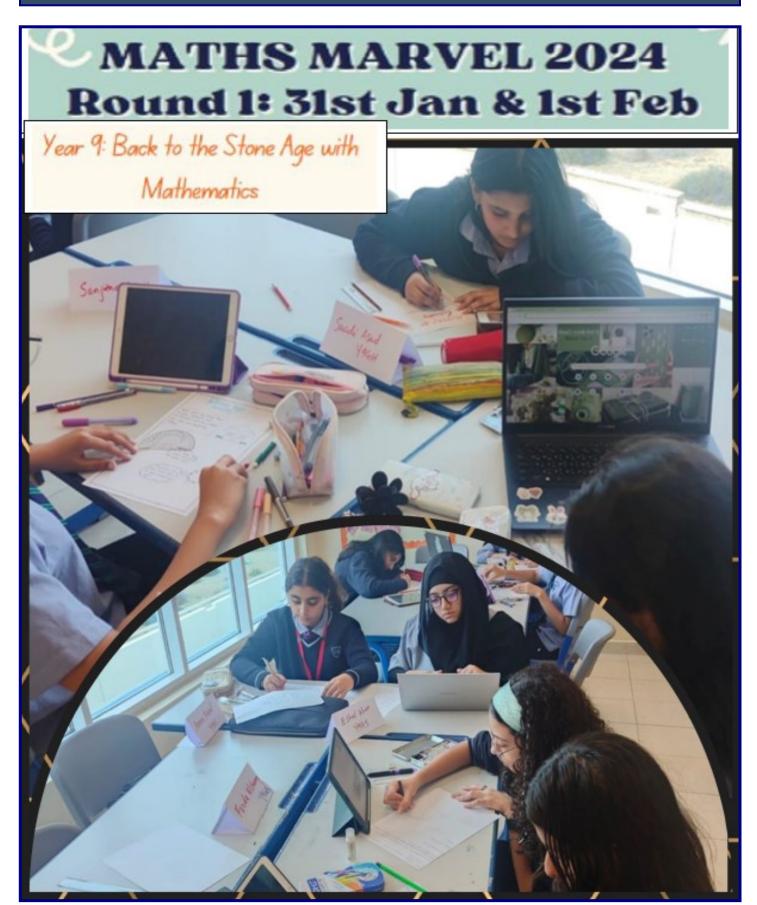
Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y8!





Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y9!





Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y9!









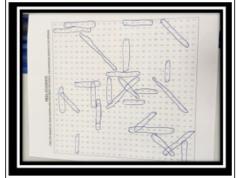




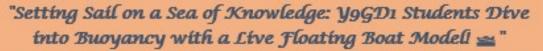








Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in Y9!



Embark on an educational voyage as Y9GD1 students delve into the science of buoyancy by constructing and testing their very own floating boat model. Through hands-on experimentation, they'll uncover the secrets of buoyant force and discover the principles that keep boats affoat. Get ready to set sail on a captivating journey of discovery and learning!











Secondary Section News; Learning Activities in KS5!

A Refresher Session KS5 BOYS -Student Rights and Responsibilities Canteen Access and Classroom Exit Policy

A reminder session was conducted in KS5 Boys classes by the Form Tutors and Student leaders to reinforce the classroom exit policy and canteen access special permission for KS5 students













<u>A Refresher Session KS5 GIRLS</u>-Student Rights and Responsibilities Canteen Access and Classroom Exit Policy

A reminder session was conducted in KS5 Girls classes by the Form Tutors and Student leaders to reinforce the classroom exit policy and canteen access special permission for KS5 students.